

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7463

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR

SUBJ: JOBERT'S MARCH 8 RADIO INTERVIEW - US TROOP PRESENCE
IN EUROPE

REF: PARIS 6026

1. AS REPORTED IN REFTEL, IN ANSWER TO QUESTION
POSED BY RADIO INTERVIEWER ON MARCH 8, JOBERT SAID,
"IF YOU PUT IT THIS WAY, IF YOU TRY TO GIVE ME A
CHOICE BETWEEN THIS -- DIGNITY AND INDEPENDENCE --
AND THAT (MAINTENANCE OF TROOPS), THEN I WOULD SAY
TO YOU THAT, AFTER ALL, THIS MAINTENANCE IS NOT
FUNDAMENTAL FOR US, NOT AT ALL. BUT I WOULD ALSO
SAY THAT FOR THE UNITED STATES, IT IS FUNDAMENTAL."

2. ON MARCH 9, MICHEL D'ORNANO, NEWLY NAMED SEC-
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RETARY-GENERAL OF INDEPENDENT REPUBLICANS, REPLIED

TO THE ABOVE STATEMENT DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE ELABORATED ON IR POLICY POSITIONS. WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER US TROOPS IN EUROPE ARE FUNDAMENTAL FOR FRANCE, D'ORNANO SAID: "WE SUBSCRIBE COMPLETELY TO THE FOREIGN POLICY OF FRANCE AS IT WAS DEFINED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC IN HIS SEPTEMBER 27, 1973 PRESS CONFERENCE (AND NOT AS IT MIGHT BE INTERPRETED); I.E., THE SECURITY OF EUROPE IS TIED TO THE ALLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THUS TO THE PRESENCE OF AMERICAN TROOPS IN EUROPE. WE (IR'S) WILL ACT IN SUCH A WAY SO AS TO MAKE FRANCE AN AGENT OF COOPERATION AND ENTENTE IN THE WORLD. WE WISH FRANCE TO HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE OF OPENNESS AND NOT A CRITICAL ATTITUDE OF HOSTILITY."

3. US JOURNALIST TELLS US THAT DURING PRESS BACKGROUNDER FOR US PRESS ON MARCH 11, QUAI SPOKESMAN DELAYE WAS AT GREAT PAINS TO DOWNPLAY JOBERT'S STATEMENT QUOTED ABOVE. CHALLENGED BY US JOURNALIST ON APPARENT CONTRADICTION BETWEEN JOBERT'S REMARKS AND POMPIDOU'S STATEMENT DURING SEPTEMBER 27 PRESS CONFERENCE (SEE PARIS 25599, 1973), DELAYE REPORTEDLY SAID THERE WAS NO CONFLICT WITH POMPIDOU'S STATEMENT, THAT POLICY HAD NOT CHANGED, AND THAT JOBERT'S REMARKS HAD TO BE TAKEN IN THE CONTEXT OF "DIGNITY."

4. DURING REGULARLY SCHEDULED WEEKLY MEETING (MARCH 11) WITH QUAI AMERICAS' DIRECTOR DE ST. LEGIER, POLCOUNS SOUGHT CLARIFICATION OF JOBERT'S STATEMENT ALONG SIMILAR LINES. ST. LEGIER ALSO CONFIRMED THAT NO DEPARTURE FROM PRESIDENT POMPIDOU'S STATEMENT WAS INTENDED AND THAT THE PRESS HAD DISTORTED JOBERT'S REMARKS SOMEWHAT.
STONE

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